

Opening Schools Report

D51 schools welcomed kindergarten and high school students back to class on Aug. 12, and all other grades returned on Aug. 10. Leading up to the start of school, D51 Maintenance worked on several projects, including aerating and fertilizing 600 acres of turf, installing new floor tile at Orchard Ave., replacing the roof at Dos Rios, and replacing part of the roof at Pomona. Nutrition Services was also hard at work over the summer, serving thousands of meals at schools and on the Lunch Lizard food truck routes. The department is excited to bring back salad bars this year, which had been in use pre-COVID.

Human Resources has been hiring all summer and has seven more general education teacher and 11 special education teacher spots to fill, as well as custodians, subs, food service workers, and paraprofessionals. Compared to other districts in Colorado, D51 is doing very well when it comes to filling vacancies. The Technology Department recently increased internet bandwidth from 5 GB to 10 GB and set up 9,000 Chromebooks in elementary schools, bringing the student-to-Chromebook ratio to 1:1. Student Transportation of America is running 128 bus routes to and from schools, plus routes to Career Center and WCCC.

The Curriculum Department is hosting three public open houses this month (the final one will take place from 4:30 to 7 p.m. this Friday in the Harry Butler Board Room) for anyone to see the two possible curriculum resources for elementary school literacy starting in 2023-24. A team of employees from across D51 will



take feedback from the open houses and recommend one of the resources to the Board of Education for adoption.

Hundreds of teachers and staff participated in D51 Professional Learning this summer, including Summer Institute, Orientation and New Teacher Orientation, Jump Start, and other opportunities. All K-3 teachers in the district have completed more than 45 hours of state-required training for literacy, as well.

Moving ahead in 2022-23, Superintendent Brian Hill said he will continue Friday updates to all staff and families, there will be safety and security updates, work on implementation of the Strategic Plan will continue, and the Superintendent's 100 Day Plan is in full swing.

[Read the 100 Day Plan](#)

D51 Insurance Update

Board members will meet at 6 p.m. on Aug. 23 in the Harry Butler Board Room to decide whether D51 should move forward with a change to the D51 health insurance plan. District staff are exploring the possibility of a single plan option with Monument Health in order to lower the cost of premiums and increase our health insurance reserves while still offering a choice of plan options and providers.

Employee premiums have increased an average of 114% since 2019. The Monument Health single plan option would lower monthly premium out of paycheck costs, offer a choice of providers through different pricing



structures and reintroduce a wellness program.

Next steps are to have the board vote whether to approve moving forward with this option, finalize negotiations with Monument Health and establish premiums by the end of the month, conduct open enrollment in October, and go live with the option on Jan. 1, 2023.

Summer School Presentation

This June, 339 D51 staff members served 2,423 students in summer classes. In all, 1,012 elementary school students, 209 middle school students, and 1,202 high school students enrolled in summer programming. In addition to seeing measurable gains at most grade levels and in most subjects at the elementary and middle school level (as measured by DIBELS and NWEA testing), D51 high school students completed or recovered 649 classes, 11 students graduated, and five earned their GED.



D51 summer students were nourished in both body and mind thanks to food service from D51 Nutrition Services, Food Bank of the Rockies, and the Kids Aid backpack program. Transportation was also provided for students this summer.

Recognitions



LANE SEGER

Career Center employee who saved a man's life in Breckenridge this summer during a work conference.



BAND DIRECTORS

CBA Exemplary Band Award Winners Tzetzzi Mendez (MGMS), Sarah Kamstra (RMS), Ryan Crabtree (FMHS), and Jeff Mason (PHS).



PETIE POPE

North American Hazardous Materials Management Association 2022 Lasting Legacy Award Winner (D51 Environmental Health & Safety Manager).



BRETT ARGO

Colorado Bandmasters Association 2022 Hall of Fame Award Winner (Fruita 8/9, ret.).

Business Items

The Board of Education had second reading and adoption of changes to Board Policies BEDH and BEDH-R: Public Participation at Board Meetings, and IHCD and IHCD-R: Concurrent Enrollment and Post-Secondary Institution.

[View Materials Here](#)

Message from Board President Haitz

Hello D51 and Mesa County Community!

It's been a busy week. Many of us on the Board of Education participated in the D51 Bus Tour on Monday and Tuesday of this week. We visited several schools, saw what each school offers, and met many students, staff, and educators! It was an excellent experience for us to be "boots on the ground" for a couple of days.

I wanted to highlight that the board passed a revision of policy BEDH and BEDH-R, "Public Participation at Board Meetings." In light of how we are working towards our work sessions being true work sessions where the Board can discuss and work through things with full transparency, we've had to restructure a few things. First, you'll see our setup at work sessions will look different than before, and public comment has been eliminated at work sessions. Please note that the Board will still have public comments at Business Meetings. Additionally, clapping is now allowed during public comments. These changes will help streamline the work of the Board with full transparency with our community.

